

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS:ETRN,UNCTAD

SUBJECT:CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES: LETTER
FROM AFL-CIO

ATTENTION RAYMOND J. WALDMANN AND RONALD A. WEBB

THE FOLLOWING LETTER (A) DATED MARCH 8, 1974 AND ADDRESSED
TO SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS RECEIVED FROM TALMAGE E. SIMP-
KIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFL-CIO MARITIME COMMITTEE. HIS
LETTER WAS REPRODUCED IN THE CIB OF MARCH 18, 1974 AND
DISCUSSION OF SAME APPEARED AS PART OF AN ARTICLE IN THE
JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, MARCH 18, 1974 (B). IT IS NOTED THAT
JOC'S MORRISON CONSULTED WITH DEPTOFF BANK PRIOR TO PUBLI-
CATION OF ARTICLE. LETTER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ARMSTRONG IN RESPONSE TO MR. SIMPKIN IS REPRODUCED BELOW
(C).

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(A) IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL

HAVE A DELEGATION ATTENDING THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, BEGINNING MARCH 11. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO ADOPT A CODE OF CONFERENCE PRACTICE FOR LINER VESSELS.

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION IS NOT TO SIGN THE CODE IF IT INCLUDES ANYTHING THAT

IS CONSIDERED A FORMULA FOR CARGO SHARING. IF THIS IS THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT, IT WILL CREATE A SITUATION THAT WILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE US-FLAG LINER COMPANIES.

WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT YOUR DELEGATION HAS TAKEN A POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO THE AMERICAN-FLAG LINER COMPANIES. IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT THE US-FLAG LINER COMPANIES AND THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ARE THE BEST JUDGES AS TO WHAT TYPE OF AN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING AGREEMENT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE US MERCHANT MARINE.

WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME ADVOCATED THE CONCEPT OF BILATERAL SHIPPING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND ITS TRADING PARTNERS BECAUSE OF THE ADVANTAGE TO THE COUNTRY AND THE US MARITIME INDUSTRY. THIS CONCEPT WAS ADOPTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT IN THE RECENT SALE OF WHEAT TO RUSSIA.

WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AND URGE THAT YOU MODIFY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FOREGOING POINTS.

(B) "US MARITIME LABOR PUSHING CARGO SHARING" - THE AFL-CIO MARITIME COMMITTEE WANTS TO MAKE SURE THE CURRENT MEETING GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, PRODUCES SOME FORM OF CARGO SHARING.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOES ALONG.

THE COMMITTEE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TALMAGE SIMPKINS, HAS ADVISED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARITIME LABOR, AT LEAST, DESIRES TO SEE CARGO SHARING FOR SHIPS OF TRADING PARTNER COUNTRIES GENERALLY ACCEPTED.

THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE PRIME MOVERS BEHIND THE UNITED NATIONS ORDERED MEETING TO DRAFT A CODE OF BEHAVIOR FOR LINER CONFERENCES, DESIRE A RIGID CARGO SHARING SYSTEM TO GIVE THEIR BUDDING MERCHANT FLEETS ASSURED CARGOES AND TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION BY THIRD-

COUNTRY VESSELS.

THE UNITED STATES - WHICH ACTUALLY NEGOTIATED SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH RUSSIA IN LATE 1972 GIVING US AND RUSSIAN SHIPS ONE THIRD OF THE TRADE MOVING BETWEEN THEM

AND LEAVING THE REMAINDER FOR THIRD-COUNTRY FLAGS - IS SAID TO BE OPEN MINDED ON THIS POINT.

MR. SIMPKINS INDICAED HE HAD "HEARD" THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD OPPOSE SUCH A PROVISION IN ANY CODE PRODUCED AND WOULD REFRAIN FROM SIGNING ANY FINAL AGREEMENT. THIS HAS BEEN DENIED.

REP. LEONOR K. SULLIVAN, D-MO., CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE, NOTIFIED MR. SIMPKINS OF HER "CONCERN" WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE CARGO SHARING ISSUE AND INDICATED SHE WAS NOT "IN SYMPATHY" WITH ANY FLAT OPPOSITION. SHE PROMISED TO KEEP POSTED ON THE DELIBERATIONS.

(C) THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 8, 1974 CONCERNING THE UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN GENEVA DRAFTING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES. I HAVE TRANSMITTED A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO MR. RAYMOND J. WALDMANN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, THE HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION, SO THAT HE MAY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR VIEWS AS THE CONFERENCE CONTINUES ITS DELIBERATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION FOR THIS CONFERENCE REPRESENTS, AND HAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, THE VIEWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ALL INTERESTED UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH SHIPPING MATTERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. FURTHERMORE, THE VARIOUS UNITED STATES POSITION ON KEY MATTERS UNDER NEGOTIATION HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OVER MANY MONTHS IN ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH ALL SEGMENTS OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN-FLAG LINES, INDIVIDUALLY AND THROUGH THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING. MOREOVER, I NOTE THAT SPOKESMEN FOR THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY, REPRESENTATIVES OF APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES AND THE CONGRESS ARE PART OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IN GENEVA. KISSINGER

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